

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) A method of processing an organic chlorine compound for decomposing and eliminating the organic chlorine compound in an object to be processed which contains biological sludge,

said method comprising a biological treatment process of causing a first microorganic body capable of oxidizing reduced nitrogen to come into contact with said object to be processed, and biologically processing said object to be processed in a state containing said first microorganic body, so as to decompose said organic chlorine compound,

wherein said biological treatment process comprises:

an anaerobic treatment process in which said object to be processed containing said first microorganic body keeping a biological activity thereof by way of a biological treatment in an aerobic atmosphere is held in an anaerobic atmosphere,

wherein, in said aerobic treatment process, supply of a gas containing oxygen to said object to be processed is blocked, so as to form an anaerobic atmosphere, and said anaerobic atmosphere is maintained.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A method of processing an organic chlorine compound for decomposing and eliminating the organic chlorine compound in an object to be processed,

said method comprising a biological treatment process of causing a first microorganism capable of oxidizing reduced nitrogen to come into contact with said object to be processed, and biologically processing said object to be processed in a state containing said first microorganism, so as to decompose said organic chlorine compound;

a reduced nitrogen adding process for adding reduced nitrogen to said object to be processed; and

an anaerobic treatment process of oxidizing reduced nitrogen contained ~~obtained~~ in said object to be processed with said first microorganism and decomposing said organic chlorine compound in an aerobic atmosphere.

4. **(Previously Presented)** A method of processing an organic chlorine compound for decomposing and eliminating the organic chlorine compound in an object to be processed,

said method comprising a biological treatment process of causing a first microorganism capable of oxidizing reduced nitrogen to come into contact with said object to be processed, and biologically processing said object to be processed in a state containing said first microorganism, so as to decompose said organic chlorine compound,

wherein said biological treatment process comprises:

an anaerobic treatment process in which said object to be processed containing said first microorganic body keeping a biological activity thereof by way of a biological treatment in an aerobic atmosphere is held in an anaerobic atmosphere.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of processing an organic chlorine compound for decomposing and eliminating the organic chlorine compound in an object to be processed,

said method comprising:

a biological treatment process for causing a first microorganic body capable of oxidizing reduced nitrogen to come into contact with said object to be processed, and biologically processing said object to be processed in a state containing said first microorganic body, so as to decompose said organic chlorine compound; and

an oxidized nitrogen eliminating process of reducing and eliminating oxidized nitrogen contained in said object to be processed with a second microorganic body capable of reducing oxidized nitrogen in an anaerobic atmosphere.

6. (Original) A method of processing an organic chlorine compound according to claim 3, wherein said aerobic treatment process has:

a first microorganic body adding step of adding said first microorganic body to said object to be processed;

a reduced nitrogen adding step of adding reduced nitrogen to said object to be processed; and

a decomposing step of supplying a gas containing oxygen to said object to be processed, so as to form an aerobic atmosphere, and causing said first microorganic body to oxidize reduced nitrogen and decompose said organic chlorine compound.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of processing an organic chlorine compound according to claim 5, wherein said oxidized nitrogen eliminating process has:

a second microorganic body adding step of adding said second microorganic body to said object to be processed;

a carbon source adding step of adding to said object to be processed an organic carbon source which becomes a nutrient for said second microorganic body; and

an eliminating step of blocking supply of a gas containing oxygen to said object to be processed, so as to form an anaerobic atmosphere, and causing said second microorganic body to reduce and ~~reduced-an~~ eliminate said oxidized nitrogen.

8. (Original) A method of processing an organic chlorine compound according to claim 4,

wherein, in said aerobic treatment process, supply of a gas containing oxygen to said object to be processed is blocked, so as to form an anaerobic atmosphere, and said anaerobic atmosphere is maintained.

9. **(Previously Presented)** A method of processing an organic chlorine compound according to claim 3, further comprising:

a mixing process of an object to be processed, in which said object to be processed in at least one of said aerobic treatment process, said oxidized nitrogen eliminating process, and an anaerobic treatment process is added by another object to be processed, different therefrom, containing an organic chlorine compound.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A method of processing an organic chlorine compound for decomposing and eliminating the organic chlorine compound in an object to be processed,

said method comprising a biological treatment process of causing a first microorganic body capable of oxidizing reduced nitrogen to come into contact with said object to be processed, and biologically processing said object to be processed in a state containing said first microorganic body, so as to decompose said organic chlorine compound;

a reduced nitrogen adding process for adding reduced nitrogen to said object to be processed;

wherein as said first microorganic body and/or a second microorganic body, those in a dehydrated cake form whose moisture is at least partly eliminated or in a lyophilized powder form are used.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of processing an organic chlorine compound for decomposing and eliminating the organic chlorine compound in an object to be processed,

said method comprising a biological treatment process of causing a first microorganic body capable of oxidizing reduced nitrogen to come into contact with said object to be processed, and biologically processing said object to be processed in a state containing said first microorganic body, so as to decompose said organic chlorine compound;

a reduced nitrogen adding process for adding reduced nitrogen to said object to be processed; and

further comprising a slurry-forming process of causing at least one of said object to be processed, said first microorganic body, and a second microorganic body to become slurry.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of processing an organic chlorine compound according to claim 3, wherein said aerobic treatment process has:

a pH adjusting step of adjusting the pH of said object to be processed containing said first microorganic body and reduced nitrogen to a range of 5 to 9; or

a desalting step of adjusting said salt concentration of said object to be processed to 4% or lower; or both said pH adjusting said salt concentration of said object to be processed to 4% or lower; or both said pH adjusting step and said desalting step.

13. **(Previously Presented)** A method of processing an organic chlorine compound for decomposing and eliminating the organic chlorine compound in an object to be processed,

said method comprising a biological treatment process of causing a first microorganic body capable of oxidizing reduced nitrogen to come into contact with said object to be processed, and biologically processing said object to be processed in a state containing said first microorganic body, so as to decompose said organic chlorine compound;

a reduced nitrogen adding process for adding reduced nitrogen to said object to be processed;

wherein, in said reduced nitrogen adding process and/or reduced nitrogen adding step, reduced nitrogen is added to said object to be processed such that the content of said reduced nitrogen with respect to 1 ng of said organic chlorine compound becomes 0.01 to 10 g-N.

14. **(Original)** A method of processing an organic chlorine compound according to claim 4, wherein the temperature of said object to be processed is held at 15 °C or higher in said anaerobic treatment process.

15-25. **(Cancelled)**

REMARKS

Claims 2-14 were allowed in the Office Action dated March 31, 2003. By the amendments made herein, claims 3, 7 and 12 are amended to correct mere spelling and typographical errors of the Response dated August 18, 2003. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims remain in condition for allowance.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, along with any other additional fees, which may be required with respect to this paper, referencing Attorney Docket No. 107350-00003.

Respectfully submitted,
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